

10/20/76

Mr. Les Whitten
1401 16 St., NW
Wash., D.C. 20036

Dear Les,

While I do not believe you will want to expose the Post as an instrument of official propaganda and disinformation I'd like to believe exposure of this kind of improper official activity is a fit subject as I'd like to believe the column would want to avoid being so used. Thus I enclose copies of my today's letter to Mrs. Graham and Archivist Rhoads.

"Rhoads is quite a propagandist. He has manipulated records to this end, withholding what is not properly withheld and then making selective leaks. He is a fairly consistent perjurer in these matters. He doesn't even bother to make *pro forma* denial when I prove it in court.

I'd be interested in knowing who arranged for that extremist non-investigator Dr. Lattimer to appear before the press club and be broadcast nationally in the irrelevant, particularly because it is the presentation of one side only and more to coincide with the beginning of the House investigation. You might be interested in using the index to Post Hertman on him.

I'll be asking the press club and NPP for equal time, if I can get to it today.

When the Post story I refer to broke I was in Stevens Point, Wisc., where I'd been conducting seminars and making speeches for a week with Jim Lesar and another. The impossibility of truth in this story was apparent. I prepared a statement of my own and had it read over the phone to the AP and UPI bureaus in Milwaukee. I'm told they regarded it favorably and as a legitimate story. I've no reason to believe either wire carried any version or any response from any source. It interests me that five days later Bush finally said part of what I had. In the Post of 11/18 this is headed "Bush is Skeptical Of 'Hoover Men'." The play was minimal, four inside inches. This followed my first protest to Mrs. Graham.

On the other side the nuts and self-seekers have moved in and already misdirected the House committee. All the information I receive is that Lane virtually controls Sprague. Yesterday "a Waldron told me a Member had told him this. The b.s. story about the destruction of records in the King case is his most recent project. It besmirched the committee and defamed the FBI. The committee staffer misrepresented the date so it could be alleged that this destruction was to fail the committee. The actual destruction was of police intelligence files. It was prior to the Rules committee action on the creation of the committee and was to fail a VVAW member's suit for the files on himself. It was reported and was a matter of record in the Memphis federal district court.

I've had a number of meetings with the staff, including Sprague. I am impressed the wrong way. For the moment I have to regard what we discussed as confidential. This includes what Jim and I had to do to break up a rotten thing they were up to about Ray with an explicit intent to violate his minimal rights. Sprague apologized and backed off. If you want your own reading they have not spoken to me about the JFK assassination, have not asked for a single piece of paper on it and although I did lend them 14 volumes of official records on King they made appointments to pick up other relevant official records over a period of several weeks and did not keep these appointments. They were with "im and me both.

He can tell you about his conversations with two Members. One told him they were going to break the King case for sure on the basis of evidence they have already. This has to be Lane's b.s., his unfactual improvisations on what he ripped off from Les Payne and me, because they have not obtained anything like this from me and are hardly in a position to have done any investigating at all. Sprague told them they can do this because the killer is still alive, read Ray, and because the found rifle fired the fatal shot. False.